

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7-12 without estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The remaining claims 1-6 are presented as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting a graft conduit to the aorta in a patient's body, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient to expose a femoral artery;  
extending upwardly through the incision toward the aorta an elongated surgical instrument including a lumen therein between distal and proximal ends thereof;

performing an aortotomy at a site along the aorta through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

positioning one end of the graft conduit at the site through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

forming an anastomosis of the one end of the graft conduit with the aorta at the site of the aortotomy; and

attaching another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body of the patient.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting to the aorta in a patient's body a graft conduit including a body portion and an end portion, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient to expose a femoral artery;  
extending through the incision toward the aorta an elongated surgical

instrument including a lumen therein between distal and proximal ends thereof;

performing an aortotomy at a site along the aorta through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

collapsing the graft conduit to dimension smaller than the cross-sectional dimension of the lumen of the surgical instrument;

positioning one end of the graft conduit at the site through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

expanding the end portion of the graft conduit into contact with the walls of the aorta to secure the body portion of the graft conduit in position through the aortotomy;

forming an anastomosis of the one end of the graft conduit with the aorta at the site of the aortotomy with the end portion positioned along the aorta and with the body portion protruding through the aortotomy;

attaching the end portion of the graft conduit to the aorta with the body portion protruding outside the aorta; and

attaching another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body of the patient.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 in which positioning the end portion of the graft conduit also includes inserting the collapsed graft conduit intralumenally within the aorta from a location downstream of the site.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting a graft conduit to the aorta in a patient's body, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient to expose a femoral artery;

extending through the incision toward the aorta an elongated surgical instrument including a lumen therein between distal and proximal ends thereof;

performing an aortotomy at a site along the aorta through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

positioning one end of the graft conduit at the site through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

expanding a balloon within the aorta to urge the one end of the graft conduit into contact with the walls of the aorta in response to fluid under pressure supplied to the balloon;

forming an anastomosis of the one end of the graft conduit with the aorta at the site of the aortotomy; and

attaching another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body of the patient.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 further including installing a fluid conduit along a portion of the aorta downstream of the aortotomy for supplying fluid under pressure to inflate the balloon.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 in which the fluid conduit is disposed intraluminally along the downstream portion of the aorta between the site and a location along a femoral artery.

7. – 12. (cancelled)